

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are amended.

In particular, claims 1, 3 and 9-11 are amended for better clarity. See the specification at, for example, Figs. 4(b) and 4(c). Claims 1-11 are amended to replace the word "said" by "the."

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Piziali for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the February 23, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 3 and 9 are amended for better clarity. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, respectively, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,056 to Shintani et al. ("Shintani"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended for better clarity, as outlined above. In particular, claims 1 and 11 are amended to clarify a groove having a substantially V-shaped surface relative to an upper surface of an underlying insulating layer being formed in regions between adjacent pixel electrodes on a surface of the underlying insulating layer or on the surface of the light-shielding layer under the underlying insulating layer. Furthermore, independent claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended to clarify a groove defined by a pair of sloping surfaces relative to an upper surface of the underlying insulating layer being formed in regions between adjacent pixel electrodes, the groove having no flat surface on bottom. Shintani does not disclose or suggest these features.

The Office Action asserts that Shintani discloses in Figs. 4 and 13 a groove 8b having a substantially V-shaped surface. However, this alleged groove 8b of Shintani is not substantially V-shaped because it includes a flat surface on the bottom. Shintani does not disclose or suggest a groove having a substantially V-shaped surface, or having no flat surface on bottom. Therefore, Shintani does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1, 10 and 11.

For at least the above reasons, Shintani does not disclose the subject matter recited in claims 1, 10 and 11, and claims 2-9 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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